

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 100920Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7292

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2660

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, LA, GW, UK

SUBJECT: NEW FRG AMBASSADOR PRESENTS LETTERS OF CREDENCE

REF VIENTIANE 2536

1. ON NOVEMBER 9 FRG AMBASSADOR TO LAOS SCHMIDT-PAULI WHO IS
RESIDENT IN BANGKOK PAID FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT
SOUPHANOUVONG AND HOUR LATER NEW FRG AMBASSADOR CLAUS VOLLERS
PRESENTED LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO SOUPHANOUVONG. VOLLERS HAD
PREVIOUSLY BEEN CHARGE RESIDENT IN VIENTIANE.

2. VOLLERS TOLD EMBOFF THAT SOUPHANOUVONG TOOK TOUGH LINE
IN MEETINGS WITH SCHMIDT-PAULI AND HIMSELF, UNLIKE SOUPHANOUVONG'S
EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDLINESS DURING LAST MEETING VOLLERS HAD WITH
HIM IN SPRING. SOUPHANOUVONG TOLD SCHMIDT-PAULI THAT IT WAS
UP TO NEW THAI GOVERNMENT TO TAKE NEXT STEP TO GET ALONG WITHL
LPDR AND THAT NO COUNTRY WITH FOREIGN TROOPS STATIONED IN IT

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COULD BE TRULY INDEPENDENT. ACCORDING TO VOLLERS, SCHMIDT-PAULI
REPLIED THAT FRG CONSIDERS ITSELF FULLY INDEPENDENT EVEN THOUGH

FOREIGN TROOPS WERE STATIONED THERE. SOUPHANOUVONG ALSO TOLD VOLLERS THAT CAPITALIST NATIONS WOULD HAVE TO REALIZE THAT NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER WAS REQUIRED, AS SOUPHANOUVONG HAD STATED AT COLOMBO NAM SUMMIT MEETING.

3. VOLLERS ALSO SAID THAT LPDR FOREIGN MINISTRY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL TOLD HIM THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO PRESENT LETTERS OF CREDENCE BY NOVEMBER 9 OR WOULD NOT HAVE CHANCE TO DO SO UNTIL 1977. WHEN VOLLERS ASKED SOUPHANOUVONG WHAT HIS PLANS WERE FOR REMAINDER OF 1976, LATTER SAID THAT HE AND OTHERS WERE BUSY AND IMPLIED HE MIGHT BE GOING ABROAD BUT DID NOT ELABORATE. VOLLERS NOTED THAT HE DID NOT RECEIVE HIS LETTERS OF CREDENCE UNTIL DAY OR TWO BEFORE CEREMONY SINCE THEY HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN MADE OUT TO "HIS HIGHNESS, PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG", AND HAD TO BE REWRITTEN BY HAND AND SIGNED WITH OMISSION OF ROYAL SALUTATIONS. (FRENCH SIMILARLY HAD TO REPHRASE LETTERS WHICH AMBASSADOR DUZER PRESENTED IN JULY.)

4. FINALLY, VOLLERS NOTED THAT GERMANS NOW PLANNED TO MOVE INTO AND SHARE BRITISH CHANCERY IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY, NOT THIS MONTH AS REPORTED REFTEL. DELAY RESULTED FROM TECHNICAL PROBLEMS, HE SAID. BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET GIVEN FINAL APPROVAL TO MOVE, HE ADDED, BUT HE EXPECTED THIS WOULD POSE NO DIFFICULTIES. BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAD ALREADY OFFERED GERMANS USE OF BRITISH COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES BUT GERMANS HAD DECLINED. VOLLERS SAID VIENTIANE WOULD BE FIRST EXAMPLE OF EEC COUNTRIES SHARING SAME BUILDING, BUT THERE WOULD BE SEPARATE ENTRANCES FOR TWO EMBASSIES IN CHANCERY OWNED BY UK WITH GERMANS PAYING RENT FOR USE OF SPACE. HE ADDED THAT EEC COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN HANOI WERE ALREADY DISCUSSING SHARING OF EMBASSY THERE TOO.
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